

South Platte Basin Roundtable Meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 2020
Remote GoToMeeting
4:00-6:15 p.m.

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South Platte Basin Roundtable Business Meeting Minutes

1. GoToMeeting Orientation, Questions, and Comments (G. Varra – 10 Min)

Garrett Varra thanked everyone for attending the SPBRT's first virtual meeting. He then went over virtual meeting etiquette (e.g., mute yourself when not speaking, enter questions or comments into the chat box, refrain from eating on camera, be concise and follow agenda).

2. Welcome/Introductions (G. Varra – 5 min)

In attendance: Mary Hodge*, Gene Manuello*, Loretta Daniel*, Garrett Varra*, Matt Jones*, Ken Huson*, Lisa Leben*, Kevin Lusk*, Kelsea Holloway*, James Ford*, Rich Belt*, Daylan Figgs*, Shane Miller*, Joe Frank*, Jim Hall*, Dick Elsner*, Jason Roudebush*, Deb Daniel*, Sean Cronin*, Lynda James*, Mike Freeman*, Sean Chambers*, Joel Schneekloth, Samuel Stein, Casey Davenport, Christy Wiseman, Corey DeAngelis, Donnie Dustin, Chip Paulson, Mary Presecan, Joshua L. Baile, Audrey Butler, Carmen Farmer, Erik Jorgensen, Dawn Jewell, Jordana Barrack, John Kolanz, Josh Kuhn, Laura Belanger, Laura Emerson, Laurel Stadjuhar, Royal Koepsell, Russ Sands, Will Koger, Ray Douglas, Austa Parker, Matt Lindburg, Matt Cook, Jayla Poppleton, and other members of the public.

Bruce Gerk* was excused from the April meeting. 22 voting SPBRT members were present (* denotes a voting member).

3. Approval of March 2020 SPBRT Meeting Minutes (G. Varra – 5 min action required)

Dick Elsner made a motion to approve the March 2020 meeting minutes and Sean Cronin seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

4. April 2020 Agenda Additions or Changes (G. Varra – 5 min action required)

There were no proposed additions or changes to the April 2020 meeting agenda. Dick Elsner made a motion to accept the agenda and Shane Miller seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest.

5. Peak Spatial Water Plan Grant Support Request (Royal Koepsell – 15 min action required)

Royal Koepsell presented Peak Spatial's request for support of their Water Plan Grant application: [Colorado's H2info Water Provider Tool](#) – Phase 2. According to the application, the proposal adds six counties (Elbert, Jefferson, Boulder, Broomfield, Larimer and Weld) to the original pilot H2info tool. The tool remains a free online public data aggregation and disclosure tool linking water provider information with property buyers and realtors to increase property buyer awareness of address-specific conservation plans, water planning, and municipal water suppliers. This expansion adds more than 150 additional water providers and doubles the potential home buyer interactions with 120,000 annual transactions along the Front Range counties.

Koepsell explained that the purpose of the tool is to get information about water resources, conservation, and quality into the hands of homebuyers. This information is publically available but difficult to find and digest for the average consumer. He noted that the South Platte Basin has approximately 80% of the water providers in the state. This project is utilizing the Water Plan Grant program (as opposed to the WSRF program) because it is a statewide initiative and benefits multiple Roundtables, in addition to meeting statewide goals outlined in the Water Plan.

After Koepsell's presentation, SPBRT members asked questions about the nature of the project data, Peak Spatial's plans to track metrics, the project's monetization structure, and whether a water provider can opt out of being included in the tool. Koepsell reiterated that the tool utilizes existing public data; the tool merely optimizes the data for a geosearch-enabled, user-friendly display. Responding to a question from Jordana Barrack, Koepsell clarified that the data covers both residential and commercial properties.

Ken Huson made a motion to support the Water Plan Grant application and Dick Elsner seconded. After the motion, Rich Belt and other SPBRT members discussed the importance of ensuring that any metrics or analysis from this project remain publically available in perpetuity. The motion passed unanimously without discussion or contest. Sean Chambers abstained from the vote.

6. WateReuse Colorado (WRCO): Policy Updates On Water Reuse (Laura Belanger and Austa Parker – 20 min)

Austa Parker and Laura Belanger presented a policy update on water reuse. Austa Parker is an Environmental Engineer and Planner for Denver Water. Laura Belanger is a Water Resources Engineer for Western Resource Advocates. They both work with [WateReuse Colorado](#), a trade association that focuses solely on advancing laws, policy, and funding to increase water reuse.

Parker and Belanger provided an overview of the drivers and opportunities for water reuse and explained the differences between reclaimed water (non-potable reuse) and potable reuse. They also covered recent policy advancements in Colorado; WateReuse Colorado and other stakeholders have been working with the state to create a regulatory framework for direct potable reuse (DPR), leading towards eventual rulemaking by the Water Quality Control Commission. SPBRT members did not have questions or comments about the presentation.

7. Water Education Colorado Update (Jayla Poppleton – 15 min)

Jayla Poppleton, Executive Director of Water Education Colorado (WeCO), presented an update on the [Statewide Water Education Action Plan \(SWEAP\)](#). After providing an overview about WeCO's various programs, Poppleton explained the need for a statewide education plan, how SWEAP is framed, the timeline for the plan, and ways to get involved. SPBRT members did not have questions or comments about the presentation.

8. State Assumption (John Kolanz – 30 min)

John Kolanz, an attorney with Otis & Bedingfield, LLC, presented about State Assumption of Program Authority for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Kolanz and Sean Cronin have been discussing this topic for a few months, and therefore it seemed like a good fit for a Roundtable presentation. The Clean Water Act allows states to petition the federal EPA to administer their own Section 404 program in lieu of the federal program. However, only two states administer their own Section 404 programs, compared to 47 states who administer Section 402 (NPDES) programs.

Kolanz explained background on Clean Water Act permitting, recent EPA rulemaking process efforts (e.g., Assumable Waters Subcommittee), impediments to states interested in assuming Section 404 Program Authority, and implications for Colorado (and the Water Plan). There may be opportunity to gain efficiencies and reduce Army Corps of Engineers permitting with a Colorado Section 404 program; this is a complex issue that requires reassessment and robust discussion in light of ongoing developments with the federal EPA.

After the presentation, attendees discussed the Tulloch Rule and how this ties into Colorado's Water Plan goals (such as completing storage projects) and Colorado's unique water laws. SPBRT members thanked Kolanz and Cronin for bringing this important topic forward.

9. Committee Updates

a. South Platte Basin and Statewide Account Balances / Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) (S. Stein and J. Roudebush – 10 min)

Sam Stein noted that the account balances had not been updated since February 27: \$649,615 for the South Platte Basin balance and approximately \$5,400,000 for the statewide balance.

Jason Roudebush reminded everyone that the next WSRF application deadline is May 1. Roudebush has been contacted by three potential applicants thus far. The WSRF Needs Committee prepared revisions to the SPBRT's WSRF guidelines; they decided to postpone that conversation to the May meeting given the length of this meeting's agenda. The Needs Committee aims to make a few clarifications to ensure that the process is clear to all applicants. All SPBRT members will have a chance to review the proposed changes before the May 12 meeting.

Garrett Varra then expressed the importance of fiscal responsibility in allocating WSRF dollars in light of COVID-19. Russ Sands, Section Chief of CWCB's Water Supply Planning

Section, agreed, adding that the state will have a tough time in the years ahead due to declining severance tax funds. It's hard to predict exactly what the impact will be, but a drop in funds to support CWCB's programs is expected. SPBRT members then further discussed state budget issues.

b. Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) Workgroup (C. Davenport – 10 min)

Kelsea Holloway provided the PEPO update. The PEPO Committee had a good meeting last week with videographer Christi Bode about the South Platte video project. They welcome input from any SPBRT members who would like to be more involved in the video. Currently, the Committee is trying to define the intended audience for the video (i.e., be more specific than 'general public').

Also, the PEPO Committee has been invited to submit articles and information to the [Lost Creek Guide](#), a twice-weekly print publication that shows up for Conservation District events and to [Our Town Colorado](#), an online newspaper with ambitions to serve the Northern I-25 corridor. Currently, PEPO Committee members are sharing [Live Like You Love It](#) messages promoting conservation while respecting the culture and values of our community. Anyone who has concerns about either publication should get in touch with Casey Davenport.

All SPBRT members are encouraged to read the Metro & South Platte Basin Roundtables PEPO Report of Efforts (semi-annual report), which was compiled by Mallory Hiss. The report is included in the April meeting materials Google Drive folder. Reach out to Mallory Hiss or Casey Davenport with any questions.

10. BIP Update: LE Expert Selection (G. Varra – 20 min)

Garrett Varra announced the results of the Local Expert (LE) contractor decision for the Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) update. The BIP Subcommittee (comprised of both SPBRT and Metro RT members) ranked the applications and interviewed the two applicant teams. Though both applicants had exemplary resumes and were well qualified, the group recommended the team of HDR and Leonard Rice. During the first week of April, SPBRT and Metro RT members were asked to vote on this recommendation using an online form provided by CWCB. Voting participation was split (22 from each Roundtable for a total of 44 votes). There were 43 "yes" votes, zero "no" votes, and one abstention. Therefore, the recommended consultant team has been chosen as the Local Expert. The next step is for CWCB to convene a meeting with all the Roundtable chairs, all the Local Experts, and staff from the main contractor (Brown and Caldwell).

Russ Sands then thanked all the SPBRT members who voted and clarified the format of the forthcoming meeting Varra mentioned. CWCB staff is planning an online format over multiple days with shorter chunks to inform LEs and bring them up to speed on the BIP process. This meeting is for LEs and Roundtable chairs. CWCB staff and Brown and Caldwell staff want to have a smaller group in order to do a deep dive into information from the recent [Technical Update](#). The meeting will include Roundtable chairs but is not open to general Roundtable members due to wanting to keep a manageable size of attendees.

11. IBCC Update (J. Yahn and S. Cronin – 5 min)

There has not been an IBCC meeting since the March SPBRT meeting.

12. CWCB Update (J. Yahn – 10 min)

Jim Yahn was not present at the meeting to provide a CWCB Board update. Sam Stein, the SPBRT's new CWCB staff liaison (replacing Craig Godbout), took time to introduce himself. He invited SPBRT members to feel free to reach out to him with questions. Stein noted that all Roundtables have GoToMeeting accounts now and thanked everyone for being flexible with the virtual meeting platform. He announced that the May [CWCB Board meeting](#) will take place virtually (details forthcoming). Russ Sands then noted that notes from the March 4 and March 5 IBCC meetings (focused on demand management) have been posted [online](#).

13. Public Comment (15 min)

There were no public comments. Garrett Varra expressed appreciation to everyone for utilizing the new meeting format and wished for everyone to stay safe and healthy during the pandemic.